

Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN MAY 1999

U.S. imports of cobalt metal and cobalt contained in chemicals were 6% higher during January through April 1999 than imports during the first 4 months of 1998, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Exports of unwrought cobalt and cobalt contained in chemicals during the first 4 months of 1999 were 34% lower than exports during the same period in 1998. Data for U.S. consumption, stocks, and trade in May 1999 will be available in a subsequent issue.

Note

With the exception of prices, all data in this report have been rounded to no more than three significant digits. Totals and percentages were calculated by using unrounded data.

Update

On June 25, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), U.S. Department of Defense, announced that it had awarded 307 metric tons (677,000 pounds) of cobalt granules and rondelles at a total value of \$11.5 million. The following companies were awarded cobalt: ABS Alloys and Metals of Mexborough, England, Allied Deals, Inc. of Piscataway, NJ, Glencore Ltd. of Stamford, CT, Phoenixx International Resources of Carnegie, PA, and Sogem USA of Raleigh, NC (Defense Logistics Agency, 1999). For further information on DLA's cobalt sales program,

please contact DLA's contracting officer for cobalt, Jennifer Iribarren, at (703) 767-5487.

Price

Prices for electrolytic cobalt, in dollars per pound, from Platt's Metals Week are listed below.

<u>Week ending</u>	<u>Price range</u>
June 25	20.00-21.50
July 2	20.00-21.50
July 9	20.00-21.50
July 16	20.00-21.50
July 23	20.00-21.50
July 30	19.00-20.00

<u>Month</u>	<u>Average price</u>
June	20.46
July	20.50

Reference Cited

Defense Logistics Agency, 1999, Stockpile accepts cobalt offers: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency press release, June 23, 1 p.

TABLE 1
U.S. REPORTED STOCKS OF COBALT MATERIALS 1/

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	Industry 2/ Oxide and other chemical compounds 5/			Total	U.S. Government, 3/ metal
	Metal 4/	Scrap			
1998:					
May	391	200	110	701	15,900
June	377	192	117	686	15,700
July	351	207	113	670	15,400
August	357	244	95	697	15,400
September	354	250	95	700	14,900
October	327	259	88	674	14,900
November	314	269	83	666	14,800
December 6/	334	291	81	706	14,700
1999:					
January	361	229	107	697	14,700
February	355	208	106	669	14,600
March	345	209	107	661	14,400
April	318	196	127	642	14,200
May	NA	NA	NA	NA	14,100

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Stocks reported by cobalt processors and consumers.

3/ Data from Defense Logistics Agency. Includes material committed for sale pending shipment.

4/ Includes metal powder.

5/ Data may include other cobalt materials.

6/ Data based on monthly reports.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Metals 2/		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds 3/		Total cobalt content for the month 5/	Cobalt content, year to date 5/ 6/
	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/		
1998:								
April	694,000	\$32,600,000	114,000	\$4,110,000	99,000	\$935,000	803,000	2,840,000
May	567,000	27,700,000	94,800	3,490,000	237,000	2,180,000	699,000	3,540,000
June	504,000 r/	24,200,000 r/	89,100	3,170,000	61,400	669,000	584,000 r/	4,130,000 r/
July	487,000 r/	22,600,000 r/	70,200	2,750,000	23,700	250,000	544,000 r/	4,670,000 r/
August	456,000 r/	21,200,000 r/	96,600	3,390,000	12,300 7/	147,000 7/	529,000 r/	5,200,000 r/
September	503,000 r/	21,900,000 r/	109,000	3,860,000	43,400	438,000	594,000 r/	5,790,000 r/
October	550,000 r/	22,500,000 r/	93,400	3,120,000	172,000	1,570,000	663,000 r/	6,460,000 r/
November	524,000 r/	19,200,000 r/	155,000	4,440,000	37,300	397,000	645,000 r/	7,100,000 r/
December	466,000 r/	14,500,000 r/	76,000	1,950,000	174,000 r/	2,430,000 r/	567,000 r/	7,670,000 r/
January-December	6,450,000 r/	284,000,000 r/	1,210,000	41,500,000	1,310,000 r/	13,600,000 r/	7,670,000 r/	XX
1999:								
January	605,000	16,200,000	160,000	3,810,000	70,800	529,000	739,000	739,000
February	528,000 8/	12,800,000 8/	81,100	1,570,000	55,900	430,000	601,000	1,340,000
March	736,000	25,200,000	97,400	2,650,000	33,000	217,000	815,000	2,160,000
April:								
Belgium	9,370	521,000	32,000	1,020,000	--	--	32,400	112,000
Brazil	40,000	1,260,000	--	--	--	--	40,000	98,000
Canada	53,800	1,830,000	--	--	769	17,400	54,200	289,000
China	--	--	2,650	52,200	--	--	1,910	2,480
Congo (Kinshasa)	71,300	2,560,000	--	--	--	--	71,300	322,000
Finland	166,000	4,050,000	71,400	1,840,000	61,200	416,000	234,000	722,000
France	775	62,100	7,320	407,000	--	--	6,050	18,400
Germany	6,790	367,000	5,050	151,000	--	--	10,400	26,200
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	76
Japan	776	60,600	200	14,300	--	--	920	3,610
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	10,300	162,000	2,570	2,570
Norway	168,000	5,450,000	--	--	--	--	168,000	562,000
Russia	80,600	2,520,000	--	--	6	3,500	80,600	281,000
South Africa	1,000	24,100	--	--	--	--	1,000	2,010
United Kingdom	179	28,900	10,000	236,000	--	--	7,380	92,000
Zambia	137,000	4,310,000	--	--	--	--	137,000	470,000
Total	735,000	23,000,000	129,000	3,720,000	72,200	599,000	847,000	3,000,000

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Unwrought cobalt, excluding alloys; includes cobalt cathode and cobalt metal powder.

3/ Includes cobalt sulfates, cobalt chlorides, cobalt carbonates, and cobalt acetates.

4/ Customs value.

5/ Estimated from gross weights.

6/ Year to date may include revisions to prior months.

7/ Data no longer in question.

8/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

Source: Bureau of the Census, with adjustments by the U. S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ADDITIONAL COBALT MATERIALS, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Unwrought cobalt alloys		Other cobalt: matte, waste and scrap 2/		Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles	
	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/
1998:						
April	17,300	\$690,000	90,300 4/	\$1,530,000 4/	26,400	\$1,470,000
May	40,700	1,690,000	64,300 4/	778,000 4/	16,800	975,000
June	15,600	689,000	42,100 r/	672,000 r/	13,500	836,000
July	15,000 r/	627,000 r/	44,300 r/	560,000 r/	22,900	1,290,000
August	28,700 r/	899,000 r/	59,100 r/	729,000 r/	11,200	709,000
September	39,700 r/	1,550,000 r/	97,100 r/	1,430,000 r/	8,710	682,000
October	72,300 r/	1,860,000 r/	76,700 r/	667,000 r/	8,660	764,000
November	9,710	629,000	250,000 r/	2,360,000 r/	14,900	747,000
December	28,400 r/	1,240,000 r/	14,900 r/	225,000 r/	27,700 r/	901,000 r/
January-December	315,000 r/	11,600,000 r/	857,000 r/	10,800,000 r/	217,000 r/	11,300,000 r/
1999:						
January	23,100	1,300,000	9,610 5/	535,000 5/	18,100	946,000
February	29,400	1,330,000	28,900 5/	826,000 5/	13,000	765,000
March	10,600	740,000	54,500 5/	991,000 5/	29,200	1,020,000
April:						
Belgium	2,550	78,400	11,600	38,600	7,750	118,000
Canada	79	7,860	13,400 5/	50,000 5/	410	90,100
Finland	65	2,800	--	--	--	--
France	98	14,600	7,830 5/	253,000 5/	1,910	75,400
Germany	--	--	18,500	196,000	626	54,200
Japan	300	22,200	21,700 5/	523,000 5/	1,670	97,900
Sweden	2,410	64,600	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	44,900	1,480,000	1,100 5/	85,300 5/	3,740	215,000
Total	50,400	1,670,000	74,100	1,150,000	16,100	651,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy; may include other cobalt-bearing materials from which cobalt is extracted, or from which cobalt-containing chemical compounds are manufactured.

3/ Customs value.

4/ Data no longer in question.

5/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

Source: Bureau of the Census, with adjustments by the U. S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF COBALT MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Unwrought cobalt, powders, matte, waste and scrap 2/		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds 3/		Total cobalt content for the month 5/	Cobalt content, year to date 5/ 6/
	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/		
1998:								
April	101,000	\$3,680,000	64,500	\$1,290,000	35,100	\$292,000	156,000	610,000
May	68,100	3,210,000	34,900	841,000	150,000	519,000	129,000	740,000
June	60,800 r/	2,860,000 r/	56,300	1,380,000	26,100	238,000	108,000 r/	847,000 r/
July	97,500 r/	4,140,000 r/	39,400	1,190,000	84,000 r/	257,000 r/	146,000 r/	993,000 r/
August	109,000	4,660,000	52,400	908,000	32,700	373,000	155,000 r/	1,150,000 r/
September	127,000 r/	3,480,000 r/	54,400	624,000	40,700	275,000	176,000 r/	1,320,000 r/
October	49,000	2,530,000 r/	61,900	1,150,000	55,100	203,000	107,000 r/	1,430,000 r/
November	64,600	2,670,000	29,700 r/	579,000 r/	25,500 r/	261,000 r/	92,100 r/	1,520,000 r/
December	118,000 r/	3,300,000 r/	30,000	461,000	76,000	281,000	158,000 r/	1,680,000 r/
January-December	1,140,000 r/	43,400,000 r/	533,000 r/	11,300,000	674,000 r/	4,140,000 r/	1,680,000 r/	XX
1999:								
January	25,600	1,090,000	35,100 7/	420,000 7/	11,800	96,500	53,700	53,700
February	56,000	2,320,000	37,200	465,000	9,500	93,500	85,100	139,000
March	78,900	3,210,000	46,200	853,000	47,300	338,000	123,000	262,000
April	105,000	3,840,000	36,600	521,000	38,500	377,000	141,000	403,000

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy, and unwrought cobalt alloys.

3/ Cobalt acetates and cobalt chlorides.

4/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

5/ Estimated from gross weights.

6/ Year to date may include revisions to prior months.

7/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

Source: Bureau of the Census, with adjustments by the U. S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF WROUGHT COBALT, COBALT ORE, AND CONCENTRATES 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles		Cobalt ore and concentrates	
	Quantity	Value 2/	Quantity	Value 2/
1998:				
April	42,700	\$3,510,000	--	--
May	51,700	1,790,000	--	--
June	42,200	2,430,000	66,800 r/	\$905,000 r/
July	22,200 r/	1,730,000	25,900 r/	67,600 r/
August	122,000	6,260,000	--	--
September	170,000	5,910,000	454 r/	5,140 r/
October	30,400	2,090,000	(3/)	(3/)
November	46,300	2,800,000	733	47,800
December	36,400	2,130,000	(3/)	(3/)
January-December	667,000 r/	33,900,000	128,000 r/	3,500,000 r/
1999:				
January	24,200	1,480,000	31,400 4/	457,000 4/
February	45,000	2,460,000	14,500 4/	29,500 4/
March	80,000	2,050,000	76,200 4/	94,300 4/
April	54,300	2,410,000	434 4/	3,900 4/

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

3/ Revised to zero.

4/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

Source: Bureau of the Census, as adjusted by the Geological Survey.